

## Chapter 1 Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The City of Riverside, as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared this Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR) for the proposed General Plan 2025 Program. The PEIR is a “first tier” evaluation of the environmental effects associated with the adoption and implementation of the General Plan 2025, Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan, the Zoning Code, the Subdivision Code and the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines, collectively the General Plan 2025 Program.

This Final PEIR contains all of the required contents as outlined in Section 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines, including:

- the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR);
- comments from persons, organizations and public agencies on the Draft PEIR and responses to these comments;
- the responses of the Lead agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- any other information added by the Lead Agency.

This Final PEIR for the General Plan 2025 Program consists of Comments and Responses to Comments, Errata for the Draft PEIR and a Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Program. This Final PEIR will be used along with the Draft PEIR, that is incorporated by reference and bound together with this document.

The Draft PEIR was prepared for the General Plan 2025 Program and circulated for public review from November 19, 2004 through January 3, 2005. Comments were received during the public review period. Copies of these letters are provided in Chapter 2, “Comments Received and Responses to Comments” and Chapter 3, “Comment Received From Moreno Valley After Comment Period,” of this Final PEIR.

The City may also adopt Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations if its deliberations concerning the General Plan 2025 Program result in approval of the project.

This Final PEIR assembles all the environmental data and analyses that have been prepared for the proposed General Plan 2025 Program, including public and agency comments on the Draft PEIR and responses by the City to those comments. The Draft PEIR and technical appendices are bound together with this document to create the Final PEIR. The intent of the Final PEIR is to provide a forum to air and address comments pertaining to the analysis contained in the Draft PEIR and to provide an opportunity for clarification, corrections or minor revisions to the Draft PEIR as needed.

The evaluation and response to comments is an important part of the CEQA process because it allows the following:

- the opportunity to review and comment on the methods of analysis contained in the Draft PEIR;
- the ability to detect any omissions that may have occurred during the preparation of the Draft PEIR;
- the ability to check for accuracy of the analysis contained with the Draft PEIR;
- the ability to share expertise; and
- the ability to discover public concerns.

## **Process**

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was distributed to various public agencies, organizations and individuals through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, and Riverside County on February 23, 2004 and a Scoping Meeting was held before the City Planning Commission on March 18, 2004. With the information gained from the Scoping Meeting the Draft PEIR was prepared and distributed to various public agencies, organizations and individuals on November 19, 2004 for a 45-day public review period through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and posted at the Riverside County Clerk's Office. The review period ended on January 3, 2005. The City used several methods to elicit comments on the Draft PEIR. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was mailed to various agencies and organizations and to individuals that had previously requested such notice. Additionally, the NOA was posted at the Riverside County Clerk's office. The Draft PEIR was available for review at the City of Riverside, Planning Division, 3900 Main Street, Riverside CA 92522, the City's Public Libraries and on the City's website at: [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov).

Pursuant to Section 15088 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City, as the Lead Agency for the General Plan 2025 Program, has reviewed all comments received on the Draft PEIR. Responses to these comments are contained within Chapters 2 and 3, of this Final PEIR. Any revisions to the Draft PEIR based on these comments have been presented in Chapter 4, "Errata to the Draft Program EIR," of this Final PEIR in **shading**.